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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1944 No. 19

MR. L. S. AMERY

Combatant Main Base and Arsenal

From Sidi Barrani three years ago, where they, the first alongside the Australians, stormed Italian trenches, to Tunis, where they took von Arnim's surrender, down to this last week's fierce fighting on the Adriatic coast, they have been in the forefront of a great westward sweep that cleared North Africa and the Mediterranean and brought Italy to her knees

Less dramatic but strategically, no less important has been the part Indian forces played in securing and holding the whole vast area of Syria, Iraq, and Persia, covering our own flank and Russia's rear, and opening up an invaluable route for the forwarding of supplies to the Russian armies. What India has contributed in men she has even more than matched in her contributions to the supply and equipment of the whole of our Middle Eastern armies

In all this, India while serving the common cause, also secured her own defence against Nazi Domination, which would have spelt the end of all her hopes of future free growth and future greatness. For her, too Victory over Japan is as essential as victory over Germany

For that second closing stage of the war, even more than in the first, India is destined to play the part of a combatant main base and main arsenal

Mr. L. S. AMERY, India Secretary, in a speech at York on Sunday, January 9

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SUPREME OBJECTIVE

One supreme objective for the future for each nation individually and for all United Nations can be summed up in one word—*security.* That means not only physical security, which provides safety from attacks by aggressors. It means also economic security, social security, moral security—in a family of nations.

* * * *

In the present world situation evidenced by the actions of Germany, Italy and Japan, unqualified military control over disturbers of peace is as necessary among nations as it is among citizens in the community. And an equally basic essential to peace is a decent standard of living for individual men, women and children in all nations. Freedom from fear is eternally linked with freedom from want.

* * * *

All our Allies want freedom to develop their lands and resources, to build up industry, to increase education and individual opportunity and raise standards of living. All our Allies have learned by bitter experience that real development will not be possible if they are to be diverted from their purpose by repeated wars—or even threats of war. China and Russia are truly united with Britain and America in recognition of this essential fact—the best interests of each nation, large and small, demand that all freedom-loving nations shall join together in a just and durable system of peace.

—PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT *in his annual message to the Congress on Tuesday, January* 11.

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OFFENSIVE PLANS

"Plans for offensive action in Europe and the Pacific are so far advanced that the actual dates have been fixed for the launching of the long awaited 'invasion.'

Heavy casualties must be expected. However, the more landing craft we have on the invasion day, the more power we can put into our punch, the more versatile our attack can be, and the lower the casualties will be."

—MR. JAMES FORRESTAL, *Under-Secretary of the United States Navy said on Sunday, January* 9.

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THE BATTLE OF THE DNIEPER BEND

THE backbone of the German Dnieper line has been broken. The recapture of Kirovograd, the important road and rail centre in the Ukraine, by the Russians means that the Germans have lost the Battle of the Dnieper bend. Kirovograd is 70 miles south-east of Cherkassy, and it was captured as the result of a bold enveloping movement. It may be recalled that when Znamenka fell into Russian hands last month, Kirovograd was threatened, and the Germans immediately launched a heavy counter-attack and held up the Russian advance. After four weeks, their resistance collapsed, and a significant feature of this collapse lies in the fact that a part of their garrison surrendered while still well supplied with weapons and ammunition.

WHY was it that the Germans were holding on to what was obviously an untenable position? Why did they persist in remaining within the Dnieper bend and expending vast quantities of stores and equipment? Why did they not save these and some of their best armoured divisions by withdrawing to the Bug or the Dniester and shortening their line by several hundreds of miles? Why did they risk this disaster when the prospects of invasion from the West seemed very near? The answer is that if they did so, the fate of the German armies in the Crimea would have been sealed and the feeling of fear in the Balkan satellites—Rumania and Bulgaria particularly—would grow into something worse and more disastrous to Germany. This catastrophe must be avoided at all costs. What was at stake was not so much the territory between Kiev and the Black Sea, but the Crimea and the Balkans.

Double Pincer Movement

GENERAL VON MANSTEIN has no doubt shown great skill in halting the powerful Russian drive temporarily, but his diversion of troops to the west has weakened the south-west region, where Russian troops under General Vatutin are advancing on a 300-mile front. Now Manstein's troops are completely cut off from the German armies in Central Russia, and cannot expect any help from their immediate neighbours in the west, because they are involved in a desperate struggle to hold off General Vatutin from reaching Odessa.

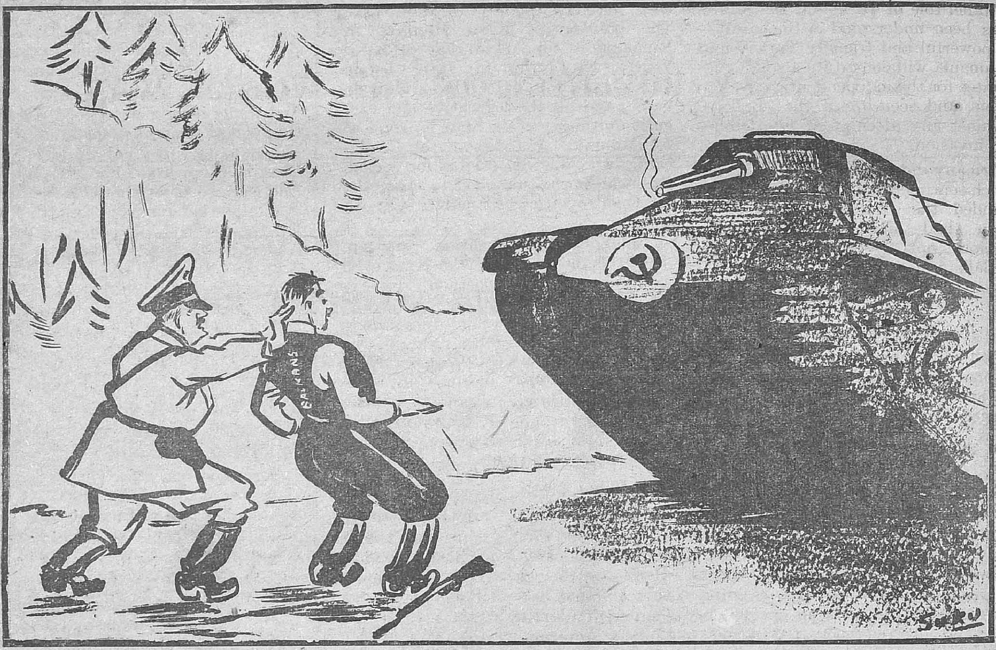
NOW a gigantic double pincer movement is developing in the southern front. General Koniev and General Vatutin are both bringing more tanks, artillery and men to strengthen this great move. On the one hand, Koniev's troops, after capturing Kirovograd, are now threatening to squeeze out the big German forces still west of the Dnieper between the troops of the First and Second Ukranian Fronts. On the other, they are menacing more directly the precarious position of the German armies in the Dnieper bend. It seems General Vatutin's new gains towards the Vinnitsa-Odessa line and General Koniev's big breach of the German defences at Kirovograd are part of the Russian master plan for the complete smashing up or ejection of the Germans from the vast area of the Ukraine.

The Smyela "Funnel"

THERE seems only one way of escape for the Germans and that is the Smyela "funnel." Further gains of the Russians on this front is narrowing still further this "funnel" of German-held territory stretching to the bank of the Dnieper. The apex of the "funnel" between the First and Second Ukranian Fronts now measures less than 30 miles. The town of Smyela itself has already been neutralized as a communications centre, and the Russians after a series of encircling movements may storm the town from several sides.

THE Germans are clinging to the "funnel" with great difficulty. Very soon, they may have to abandon it, or attempt a perilous fighting withdrawal. If not, they face the danger of encirclement.

SHELTER—BUT NOT FOR LONG



—*Specially drawn for the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Developments in the Balkans—Discontent and Apprehension

Developments in the Balkans are being watched with close interest in view of great Russian advance on the lower Dnieper. It was reported from Ankara on January 5 that the Rumanian Government had ordered complete civilian evacuation of Bessarabia, which the Rumanians re-occupied after the outbreak of the Russo-German war, and that the Germans were hurriedly fortifying the Dniester banks. Both Rumania and Bulgaria seem to be "seething with discontent and writhing with apprehension." Bucharest, the capital of Rumania, is within easy range of Allied bombers. It is therefore not a matter for surprise that the question of leaving the German camp should be very prominent in recent months in Rumanian minds. That explains why Rumania has been sounding opinion in neutral Turkey. Six months ago, Rumanian papers were trying to woo Turkish opinion with the hope that it would help in bringing about a settlement with the Allies.

"The new Turkey," wrote the *Universal* on June 17, "has always given her support to any action undertaken in the Balkans aiming at peace and collaboration and regional security. In Ankara the role of Rumania at the mouth of the Danube and the Black Sea as the defender of the destinies and the security of

THE GREEKS

(*By* R.G.)

These in the hour of choice chose death, and fame.
They flung their challenge to the Axis power,
On mountain tops cried 'Liberty!.' Their name
Shall never lose the lustre of that hour.

And now, though lost the fight and hunger's stare
Falls grim on Sparta's plain and Athens' hill,
They do not truckle to the foe but dare
In famine's grip outface the German will.

Acclaim, Leonidas, Themistocles,
Their new Thermopylae and Salamis.
You could not get you braver sons than these,
And your endurance was not more than this.

the south-eastern European region is just as well understood as the parallel role of Turkey at the Straits has been understood in Bucharest—a powerful and friendly Turkey and Rumania will constitute a solid guarantee for the independence, development and security of the Balkans against any attempt at interference or invasion."

Germany did not like the expression of such sentiments. The German press reminded the Rumanians that their nation had never been Balkan-conscious, not even at the time when the Balkan concept reached the gates of Vienna.

* * *

Mihai's Mission to Rome, a failure—Changed tactics of the Antonescu

Towards the end of June, MIHAI ANTONESCU, the Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister of Rumania, went to Rome. He made a series of declarations before undertaking the journey, courting Italy's friendship by stressing Rumania's Latin affinities. The object was evidently to form a Latin *bloc* and make a separate peace with the Allies through the instrumentality of His Holiness the Pope. He met with no encouragement, and his references to Latinity evoked no response from Italy. Finding both Germany and Italy unfavourable the Rumanian Government resorted to the last refuge of friendliness towards KING MICHAEL who has not been actively friendly to the Nazis. The position of KING MICHAEL in Rumania is similar to that of KING VICTOR EMMANUEL in Italy before MUSSOLINI's fall. He is King only in name, and all the legislative and executive authority of the State is exercised by MICHAEL ANTONESCU, the Conducator, who was responsible for certain acts which were intended to lower the status of royalty in the public eye.

Suddenly the situation changed. The Conducator and the King who rarely appeared together publicly during a period of about two years, began to make many joint appearances in public in July of last year, in the company of the Vice-Premier MIHAI ANTONESCU. The motives of the Antonescus are very clear; they want to use the young King whom they deprived of all real power, as their protective shield now.

Will Rumania collapse in the near future? It would not be wise to expect it, for the German stranglehold on both Rumania and Bulgaria seems to be as strong as ever. But it must be noted that in both Balkan countries there is a passionate desire to escape from the war, because the vast majority of Rumanians and Bulgarians now feel convinced that Germany has already lost the war.

ON THE BURMA FRONT.—Group of Gurkhas with some of their Jap Souvenirs.

CAUTIONARY COUNSELS

(*By* R.G.)

No. VI.—TIMMAPPA, WHO REFUSED TO ENLIST AND DIED YOUNG

Timmappa was a sturdy brute
And would have made a good recruit
If anybody could have made
The man less timid and afraid.
But when they asked him "Won't you go
And learn to shoot and fight the foe?"
The bright lad answered simply "No."
For those who shoot themselves are shot
And so he said he'd rather not.
A modest livelihood to gain
Was better than good pay, and pain:
A living coolie, thought Timmappa,
Outweighed a dead though glorious Sapper.

But Time to all reveals the truth
And proved to this ingenious youth
That Death and pain can catch, or hunt,
A man not only at the front
But equally in hut or lane
Or idling in the sugar-cane.

It happened that a factious riot
Upset the placid village quiet.
Timmappa, who had no concern
With either party, chanced to turn
A corner just as stones were flying
And in a moment he was lying
Unconscious and besmeared with blood
In several inches depth of mud.
But luckily his head was thick
And harder than a well-burnt brick.
So taken to the town and tended
By nurse and doctor he soon mended.
But hardly had they let him out,
Restored to health, though not so stout,
When he went down a road by night
And trod upon a sleeping krait.
And though he managed to avoid
The backlash of the beast annoyed
Not long did he survive to tell
How fast he sprinted and how well.
For, sprinting this too sudden burst
The lad was overcome by thirst
And quenched his thirst in water cool
Drawn from the nearest river pool:
And in that water chanced to squirm
Some millions of the cholera germ.
And that is all Timmappa's story,
Without a soldier's meed of glory.

Moral

From death and pain fear will not save:
Honour, and imitate, the brave.

☆

ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE

ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAINING SCHOOL IN INDIA

NAVAL officers and ratings who will handle the anti-submarine equipment in warships of the Royal Indian Navy paraded smartly last week on the occasion of the commissioning day anniversary of their training school, H.M.I.S. *Machlimar*. The salute was taken by Commodore A. R. Rattray, Commodore, Royal Indian Navy, who in a speech addressed to all on parade spoke of the vital and growing importance of their work.

The object of H.M.I.S. *Machlimar* is the training of officers and men of the R.I.N. in anti-submarine warfare,—the seeking out and sinking of submarines by depth charges, and the protection of ships against underwater attack. A certain number of Royal Navy and Allied personnel also receive instruction.

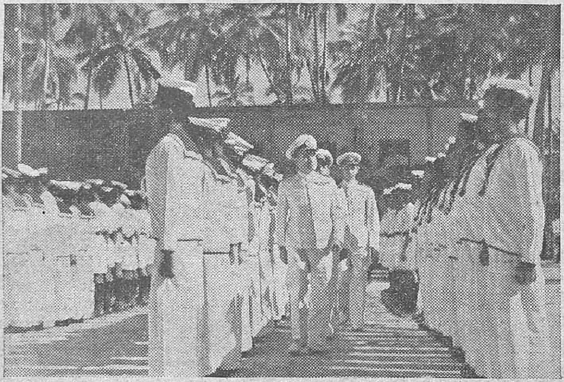
During a visit to the establishment representatives of the Press saw the equipment used in the detection of submarines and watched classes being taught how it is handled. As the climax of their tour they went into a darkened room where by means of an ingenious instrument they followed the different phases of a warship's attack on a submarine. They saw the officers and ratings working their various instruments, the combined effect of which was to bring the warship nearer the enemy until a pattern of deadly depth charges could be dropped over her. A visit was paid to all parts of the establishment, including the mess rooms and sleeping quarters.

Since the war began, a large number of R.I.N. officers and men have qualified in the "art" of detecting and killing submarines, and have proceeded to sea to join in the defence of India's sea routes and shipping. Serving in vessels of the R.I.N. engaged in escort and patrol duties they have hunted submarines in both Eastern and European waters. Experts in this form of Naval Science have a high value in this war, in which, as in 1914–18, the enemy employs underwater attack as a means of assailing the United Nations' sea communications. *Machlimar* teaches India's Naval personnel to outwit the sub-commander and send his craft to destruction.

Premises occupied by the school earlier in the war proved too small to accommodate the large number of men under training and still to be trained. A year ago, therefore, H.M.I.S. *Machlimar* was commissioned, with ample accommodation and plenty of up-to-date equipment.

Officers and ratings trained at the school come from all parts of India, many being from the South. They must be as efficient seamen and tacticians as technicians. Ratings who have already had a period of service in the Navy join it to specialize in this branch of Naval Science. Having undergone a course and qualified, after examination, as Submarine Detectors, they put their knowledge to good use at sea and then come back for a further course that leads to promotion to the rate of Higher Submarine Detector. When in the course of their service afloat they become Petty Officers, they may, if recommended, volunteer to return to the school to qualify themselves for still further advancement. The knowledge of electrical equipment imparted is a valuable asset for a man to carry with him into civilian life.

At the anniversary parade officers and men were drawn up around the quarterdeck, over which flew the White Ensign. On his arrival Commodore A. R. Rattray was met by the Commanding Officer of the school, Commander B. E. Kendall, R.N. After inspecting the guard and ship's company, Commodore Rattray addressed the



COMMISSIONING DAY ANNIVERSARY OF H.M.I.S. MACHLIMAR.—*Photo shows: Commodore A. R. Rattray inspecting the ship's company.*

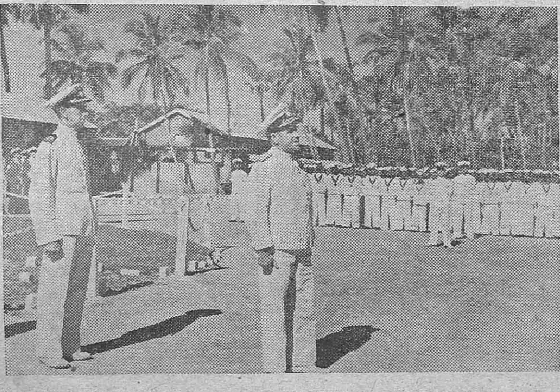


Photo shows: Commodore A. R. Rattray, R.I.N., addressing the parade.

O.B.E. FOR SOUTH INDIA LABOUR OFFICIAL

For meritorious services rendered in connection with the operations in Burma and on the Eastern Frontier in India from May 1942 to June 1943, Mr. Robert Walker, Chief Civil Liaison Officer, South India Labour, has been awarded the O.B.E. (Civil Division).

Appointed Civil Liaison Officer for Cochin State in May 1942 and subsequently empowered to act in the same capacity for Travancore State, Mr. Walker, according to the official citation, at all times showed untiring zeal and energy in working to improve the standard and output of the Labour under his charge. He rendered valuable service to the war effort and the assistance he gave to the State Labour Force generally during the period when no other British officers were available was highly commendable.

parade, referring at the outset to the steady and satisfactory progress made by the school during the past year in the face of difficulties.

"From the results you are producing to-day," he added, "it is clear that all of you, from the Commanding Officer to the most junior rating, have worked with a will, and I am satisfied that, fully appreciating the vital and growing importance of your work, you will continue to do so.

"A brief word to the officers and men undergoing training. With the intensification of the war in the East your work, once you have qualified, will become of even greater significance than it is to-day. Make up your minds that the knowledge you are gaining here is not allowed to slip from your memories. Keep on the track of your subject and do not 'lose contract'."

The parade concluded with a march past, the Commodore taking the salute.

In the afternoon there were hockey and football matches on the school's fine playing grounds, and in the evening the theatre was thronged for the performance of a drama entitled "Anarkali," written by Warrant Schoolmaster, Feroz Shah and acted by ratings.

Commissioning day anniversary of H.M.I.S., Machlimar, *the Royal Indian Navy's Anti-submarine School, was the occasion of a parade in which the ship's company and officers and men under instruction took part.* Photo shows *Commodore A. R. Rattray taking salute at the march past.*

PLASTER ON A WOUND

By JOSEPH KALMER

ON NOVEMBER 24, 1943, the Emperor of Japan decorated Dr. Heinrich Stahmer, German Ambassador in Tokyo, with the Great Order of the Rising Sun "in recognition of his services for the intensification of friendly relations between Germany and Japan."

Had this distinction any meaning at all? Was it a hint that Japan was prepared to give Germany more active aid?

It may safely be assumed that it was nothing of the sort. The Nazis, it is true, are trying to create the impression that they may be able to extract some sort of assistance from the Japanese which might avert their own defeat.

In April they announced over the Paris radio that the "Japanese would not remain inactive if the Allies opened a second front in Europe." This was alleged to have been said by the Japanese diplomat Hirota at Nanking, capital of the Chinese Quisling Wang Ching-wei. Towards the end of May, they launched over the Finnish Lahti radio the news that Lieutenant-General Yahagi had said that "the Japanese army would give proof of its loyalty to the Three-Power Pact the moment Anglo-American forces landed in Europe." But all these things would be cogent reasons for conferring German Orders on Japanese and not the other way round.

Has then Germany done something for Japan? Tojo, Japan's Prime Minister, recently declared on the occasion of the meeting of the Fascist Black Dragon Society that 300 German instructors were training 200,000 Japanese airmen and that, moreover, German technicians and engineers had recently brought to Japan a revolutionary plan for mass production of new military aircraft of which 3,000 per month would be produced as from May 1944.

Germany cannot have sent 300 flying instructors to Japan even in the legendary U-boats of the Kaupischt flotilla which are said to travel from Lorient and St. Nazaire as far as Japan for the simple reason that they are more urgently needed at home.

Stahmer's decoration is rather in the nature of a plaster on a wound, rather a pitiful demonstration to celebrate the seventh anniversary of the conclusion of the Anti-Comintern Pact.

MAJOR-GENERAL DAN I SULTAN

STILWELL'S NEW DEPUTY

MAJOR-GENERAL DAN I. SULTAN who was recently named Deputy Commander, under Lieutenant-General Joseph W. Stilwell, of United States forces in the China-Burma-India theatre, is a veteran of 36 years' regular army service with a wealth of experience designed to add weight to the impending drive against the Japanese.

General Sultan is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

MAJOR-GENERAL DAN I. SULTAN.

Later from 1912 to 1916, he coached the West Point team. Among his players then were Cadets Eisenhower, Bradley, Larken, Pritchard, Hobbs, Woodruff and Gearhardt, all destined to become distinguished generals.

During World War I he was a Colonel on the General Staff. He was an honour graduate of the General Staff School in 1922, a member of the graduating class of the Army War College in 1925, commander of United States troops who surveyed a possible canal route across Nicaragua in 1929–31.

Five years ago General Sultan was transferred from the Engineering Corps to Infantry. He was in the Hawaiian Department for two years, next commanding a training division and finally an entire Army corps in the States before being assigned to this theatre last November.

He has twice received the Distinguished Service Medal, besides the Presidential Medal of Merit (Nicaragua) and the Congressional Medal of Distinction. He was born in the state of Mississippi.

FREE EUROPE

By JAN MASARYK, *Czechoslovak Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.*

IN years to come the historians will be comparing the two Thirty Years' Wars. Some time ago that great and wise man, General Smuts, mentioned the second Thirty Years' War. The idea that we have been at war for thirty years may seem to many people rather startling. They will ask: "Did we not have peace from 1918 to 1938?" In my estimation we did not, even if some of us lived peaceful and safe lives. We went through the motions of finishing a war, having an armistice and being intensely grateful for what seemed to us an opening of a new era of peace, collective security, democracy, League of Nations and international decency. My lovely country emerged victorious, reborn and eager to get on with the job. But the prerogatives of lasting international co-operation became like loose teeth and, one by one, they fell out. The idea that Germany should pay reparations from one generation to another looks very foolish to us to-day.

The League of Nations became a semi-orphan soon after its birth, because one of its parents—the United States—made a sudden disappearance. Geneva became a not-too-happy hunting ground for different types of makeshift settlements, which were ineffectual in averting the terrible conditions of to-day. The endeavours to make all countries, big and small, economically self-sufficient were a never failing prelude to the symphony of strife and hate which was bound to come and deafen our unprepared ears.

The advent of Mussolini and his master pupil Hitler should have been viewed as definite warnings to us all. Everything we had fought for was being ridiculed, superseded and destroyed. International law became so flexible and loose that it stopped being either international or law. Non-interference with rampant evil perpetrated by the different totalitarian regimes, connivance with it and making excuses for it took the place of statesmanship. The democracies hoped against hope, wishful thinking became an accomplished art, and ostriches became our instructors in hiding our heads in the shifting sands of approaching disaster.

Not a very pretty picture I confess, but are you not ready to agree with me that the last twenty years were a steady slide towards a new outbreak and that we have not had a real peace since 1914?

THE FUTURE

But enough of the past. What are we going to do about the future? By nature and by intellectual conviction I am an optimist. I am ready to believe that we have learned our lesson, for if we have not, our civilization is doomed and the ultimate victory of the Powers of Darkness assured. What is the lesson? That all nations, regardless of their size or geographical position, are interdependent. That it does not pay to play cricket with gangsters. That Nazidom, Prussianism, the German General Staff, are equally responsible and therefore must be utterly eliminated—no halt measures this time. Of Fascism I speak not—it is destroying itself before our eyes in a most undignified Punch and Judy manner. That no country is safe unless the real root of the disturbance is eliminated. In many countries of the world—separated by many miles of land and sea from Europe—there were many who thought: "It cannot happen to us." Well it did, in various degrees. They too, learned a lesson, and discovered—once and for all I hope—that distance and isolation can never be the solution.

I could go on enumerating what I believe we have learned in the past. But are we fully preparing the lessons for the future? Do we fully realize that making peace will be even more important than making war? Once victory is ours—and there is no question of that to-day (what wonderful progress the United Nations have made in the last twelve months)—once victory is ours, we must stand together as nations united for peace. The Big Four should lead—the British Empire, America, Russia, China. About Europe, Great Britain, America and Russia must come to a definite agreement. Europe, our mother, must be safeguarded because it would again be Europe where the next world war would start if the Great Powers loosen the links of blood and toil which unite them to-day.

SECURITY

To my mind, security is the most important, the most essential ingredient of a real peace. The idea of balance of power, where little countries like mine become pawns in the hands of selfish interests of Great Powers, has brought about many a war. The idea of spheres of influence bristles with dangers. There must be a master-plan, not only made but executed. A joint organization to make aggression impossible must be produced. Call it an international police force, an international army or a League of Nations (this time, of course, equipped with real and not imaginary powers), but security!

I do not think that the people who have not been invaded, desecrated, humiliated and deprived of the fundamental human rights, can fully understand how we, who are going through that hell, crave security. It is a word which I pronounce with religious humility; it is a heavenly ideal, and the millions of martyrs in Europe and Asia feel exactly the way I do about it.

FEDERATION OF FREE PEOPLES

And may I submit to you free people far away that without security for the small nations, there can be no security for the British Empire, America or anyone else. I know how difficult it will be to find a real solution, but is it not eminently worthwhile for all of us to try, to give the same amount of energy to it as we are giving to the battles of to-day? Personally I am in favour of a federation of free peoples with their national characteristics safeguarded (I mean their good characteristics), their right to their own freedom, and national culture in learning, religion, art and work guaranteed by all for all. Great sacrifices can be demanded of them for the common good. Europe is overcrowded in spots, other parts of the world are empty. That, some day, should be looked into also.

Don't forget that distance really does not exist. I fly the Atlantic as I used to cross the English Channel. Whether we like it or not, the world has become infinitely more close-knit. Insularity, isolationism or, as we used to say "splendid isolation" have lost their very raison d'etre because of the mechanical development of the last fifty years. Whether you and I like it or not, there will be no withdrawing into our own shell. There will never again be a shell safe enough for any continent, nation or country to crawl into. Naturally some countries are much more favourably placed than others. For a thousand years the Czechs have been neighbours

GEORGE VI QUARTER AND HALF-RUPEE COINS

The following press note is issued by the Madras Government:—

There is a misapprehension among the public that nickel four-anna pieces with corrugated edges and quarternary George VI half-rupees and quarter rupees of the Mintage of 1940 with plain milling, i.e., without the security edge and all silver quarter rupees have ceased to be legal tender. This is not the case.

All genuine quarter rupees are legal tender and should be accepted freely by the public. The quarternary half-rupees (1940 issue and onwards) also continue to be legal tender, whether they have plain milling or security edges. Only George VI silver half rupees which are of eleven-twelfths standard fineness (i.e., those issued before 1940) have ceased to be legal tender.

of Germany, a very questionable privilege, which will continue after this war is won. That is why security means so much to us. Many of my listeners are sea animals—a remarkable privilege granted to them by kind Providence. I belong to the land animals, whose frontiers are landlocked. But we are used to it by now, even if we do not enjoy the periodical restlessness of some of our neighbours. The geographic advantages and disadvantages of various countries should certainly be taken into consideration when the statesmen assemble at the real peace table.

EACH NATION'S DUTY

It is my firm conviction that each and every country has a definite contribution to make to the common good. These should be carefully examined as soon as possible, so that each of us can help to the utmost in the arduous work of reconstruction. By acknowledging the mistakes we all made in the past, we should be able to proceed with the tremendous task of preventing another war. It can be done, it must be done. It is a shocking fact that so far we have waited and shifted until a war was upon us, and then our youngsters are killed, our savings eaten up, our lives disrupted and victors and vanquished suffer almost the same consequences. Surely if we make up our minds that this is the last world war we can achieve it. United Nations must become a permanent institution, security must become our undeniable right, and aggression eliminated for good. Co-operation with Soviet Russia, which will be the most powerful State on the continent of Europe, is a condition sine qua non. Co-operation between the British Empire and the United States is another prerequisite. There will be competition, of course. Competition is healthy and necessary. But the millions of slaves, not only in Europe, must be freed and regain their lost human dignity and right to live their own lives, otherwise the great Western and Eastern civilizations and Christian civilization are doomed, and they are infinitely worth while saving. Great sacrifices will be demanded from all of us. We must make them cheerfully and for a long time.

I am strongly opposed to a general levelling of standards. Each nation can approach the goal in its own way. Different forms of Government do not exclude a great risorgimento of this world of ours. There are many more points of contact than points of disagreement. What we all want and need is a decent place to live in, an opportunity to use our talents and to co-operate with our neighbours. It sounds obvious and old-fashioned, but it is as actual to-day, or even more so, than ever before.

We are all in the blood-covered arena together, distances and oceans make very little difference. Let us emerge victorious together and start together on a journey, hard and long, but worth while and so absolutely necessary that it would be a deadly sin not to undertake it. We owe it to our young ones who are giving their lives so that we can undertake it. It can succeed, it should succeed, and then there will not be another Thirty Years' War.

But first we must win this one. That is our immediate and urgent task. No slacking, no let up, until we all meet in Berlin and Tokyo.

My little country has paid a full price, what a price! So have all the other occupied countries. We are ready to pay more, or are doing it and so are you. But we must resolve to keep it up in war and indeed in peace. May God give us peace and security!—*a. B.B.C. talk.*

THE FUTURE OF AFRICA

By LORD HAILEY

THE future of Africa! That is a topic which I fear will demand a degree of prophetic vision greater than I can claim to possess. Let me, however, start with an observation of a general nature. I suppose that we are all inclined to wonder what posterity will think of the age in which we live. Our own thoughts to-day are filled by the vast struggle on which we are engaged. But there may also be other aspects of our period to which posterity will attach importance. The real significance which one age attributes to another lies in the permanent influence which it is felt to have left on the movements of world thought. I personally believe that one of the most significant things about this age is the new importance which the more backward peoples of the world have come to occupy in our thought about world affairs. This is not merely due to the extension of the frontiers of civilized or humanitarian interest, nor to the prominence which some of these regions have acquired in the course of the war. Nor is it merely the consequence of our realization that the standards of life of the more highly industrialized peoples must depend on raising the standards of the more backward, and thereby enlarging the market for their industries. It is, I think, due even more to a deep-seated feeling that there will always be insecurity in an unbalanced world, where one section has so large a measure of social and economic advantage over the other.

But whatever the reason, this feeling regarding the position of the more backward peoples is very real. That being so, it is natural that Africa should now play a far more spectacular role on the world's stage than it has hitherto done. Tradition has given to Africa the reputation of being one of the most backward—perhaps indeed the most backward—of the larger regions of the world. There might have been some truth in this fifty years ago, but to-day it would be an over-statement of the case. Among what are sometimes known as the "billion backward peoples" of the world, there are many who have equally low standards of living, and who enjoy less security of life, and less provision of social services than do most parts of present-day Africa.

TWO SPECIAL FEATURES

Nevertheless, Africa has two particular features which give it a special position for those who are concerned about the future of the less developed regions of the world. The first of these lies in its political circumstances. If we take its total population as between 150,000,000 and 160,000,000, there are only about 35,000,000 who are not directly controlled by one or other of the European Powers. The only countries responsible for the management of their own affairs are the Union of South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia and Liberia, though for all practical purposes we might now include Southern Rhodesia in this list. The second characteristic feature is to some extent a consequence of the first. External control has brought the African peoples into close contact with Europeans whose ideas of rule, and whose economic and social systems are strikingly different from their own. It is common to speak of our ideas or practices as "advanced" and those of Africans as "primitive." But what really matters is the extent of their difference, not the term by which we describe them. The disparity has been made more apparent by the fact that such contact has not been gradual, but has been accelerated by the rapid extension of the agencies employed in a modern mechanized world.

TWO-FOLD DANGER

This situation presents a two-fold danger. It may in the first place lead to the unsettlement and disturbance of life which is inevitable when a people has to adjust itself hastily to new ideas and new economic conditions. Again, it may involve the danger that contact may mean also conflict, arising from the clash of economic or other interests, with all the attendant consequences of alienation between Europeans and Africans. The nations now responsible for the control of so much of Africa have a special responsibility for preventing these results; and their failure to do so may gravely defer the time when Africa can make her just contribution to the rest of the world.

Much of what I have said is true of Africa as a whole. But in discussing the future, we need to make certain broad distinctions between its main regions. The circumstances of the countries bordering on the Mediterranean and the Red Sea have to be considered separately from those of the countries lying further south. French policy has treated Algeria as an integral part of France. The political future of Libya, Cyrenaica and Eritrea has still to be decided. But the most important consideration lies in the somewhat limited field for development which some of these areas seem to present. If we exclude the Nile valley, the potentialities of the areas bordering on the Mediterranean are in the main limited to a narrow coastal strip. Judging by what we now know of the resources of Ethiopia, the prospects of any large

development are doubtful, and that is certainly true also of the other areas which border on the Red Sea.

It is the areas south of the Sahara which mainly interest us when considering the future of Africa. It is here that the great bulk of its population and its resources are to be found. Let me take the chief of those factors which seem likely to determine their future. There is, firstly, the great variety in their systems of rule. The ideal of the French system has been the closest possible association of the African colonies with France itself; she has looked forward to making them part of the French economic and commercial system, and it forms no part of her ideal to encourage the growth of self-government, with the possibility of separatist tendencies which this may create. The Belgian objective has been limited to the all-round development of the Congo. In this the African is being assisted and, indeed, encouraged to take his share; but self-government seems no more a part of the Belgian objective than it does that of the French. Portugal has made far less progress than her neighbours in the development of her African colonies, and there are no signs to show that the future she contemplates for them is one of self-government. On the other hand, self-government is the future definitely held out to the British colonies, and since the great majority of the population of these territories is African, it must be assumed that when they attain self-government, Africans will ultimately have the principal share in their administration. Finally, we have to consider the special position of the Union of South Africa. Its ideal is the maintenance of the standards of life which its European community has established for itself, and it assumes that in consequence the European must not only retain complete political control, but must see that his economic welfare is not endangered by any form of competition from the African. That view is largely held in Southern Rhodesia also.

THE BASIC PROBLEM

We encounter, therefore, a marked diversity of aims. Is there any possibility of working towards a greater uniformity in them? Before I consider this, let me turn to a matter which seems to me to be even more fundamental. I do not suggest that the political issue is not of great importance to the peoples of Africa. But for the great mass of them, the basic problem at the moment is one of economic development. The fact that Africa is one of the largest producers of gold and diamonds, or that it has a considerable production of metals such as copper and tin, and some valuable tropical products, such as cocoa, palm oil and fibres, must not blind us to the fact of its poverty in other respects. Over great areas, the soil is inferior for agricultural purposes. In some regions—such as the neighbourhood of Lake Victoria, or some parts of West Africa—there is a considerable density of population; but in proportion to its great area, Africa is very thinly populated. Scientists doubt whether even to-day, in spite of the state of law and order that now prevails, the population as a whole shows any tendency to increase. There is certainly nothing like the almost spectacular increase that India has seen in the last fifty years.

The first essential, therefore, is to attack the problem of improving the conditions of life throughout these areas. That effort should be directed in the first instance to improving nutrition, for it is the lack of nutrition which is the basic cause of that prevalence of disease which has been such a lamentable feature of African life. And in the second place it should be directed to an increase of production, and the stimulation of local industries, which will put Africa in a position to finance its own social advance. The Colonial Powers can do much by assisting to finance social services, and we ourselves have now recognized this obligation by the provision made in our Act of 1940; but such assistance can only serve as a "priming" for the machinery of progress. If Africa is to take its own place in the world, it must be as the result of efforts by individuals to improve their own situation, and by the community at large to develop the natural resources of their country. External aid can only help them part of the way. I do not overlook the need for the extension of education in these areas; we have before us evidence of what Russia has been able to achieve by mass education; but education must be viewed in Africa, as it has been in Russia, as an essential function of economic progress. And economic progress, I submit, is not only the foundation, but the guarantee of advance in political status.

THE SOLUTION

How, then, are we to secure the common effort needed to produce this result? There are some who hold it can only be achieved by handing over all African dependencies to the charge of an international organization. But such an organization could not, of course, take control of areas which are already politically independent. Moreover I suggest that before we consider any such project, it would be well to see how far in fact the major nations of the world can prove themselves capable of creating an organization for other and not less essential purposes, such as the maintenance of security or the improvement of their own economic relations. There are others who believe that common action could best be secured by the joint deliberations of Regional Councils in Africa itself, and this proposal has behind it the high authority of General Smuts. But the question of machinery is not, at the moment, the matter of first concern. Whatever the machinery adopted, the guarantee for its success lies in the determination to create the economic conditions and the standards of life on which the social and political advance of Africa can be built up. Our most effective contribution to its future will be to create within the British Commonwealth and in the nations associated with it, a resolute determination to achieve that end.

NINA

By MAKAROV

GERMANS invaded Kuban in the summer of 1942. The horizon was aglow with fires that moved from west to east, eating up one peaceful village after another. People left their homes and even birds abandoned their nests: fleeting from the smoke which enveloped. Roads soon became jammed with carts, trucks, people on horseback and on foot.

Nina Marukhno was an 18-year-old girl, one among the people who had abandoned their village of Grivenskaya. In a cart pulled by two horses were her mother and little sisters and brothers—her father having stayed behind with other fishermen to carry on partisan activity behind the German lines.

The girl took a last look at her native village. It was here that she had grown, gone to school, studied in technical school and spent the life of a youth.

German planes were flying low over a dusty road and machine-gunning unarmed people. Then German tanks cut the highway and people had to make their way through side roads hiding in ravines at day time.

In the evening Nina announced to her mother, "I can't stand it any longer. I want to join the army soon. You and children won't get lost."

JOINS THE ARMY

Walking on foot Nina reached the Headquarters and told them that she had graduated in the course for nurses, and begged them to have her enlisted. She was given a kit and sent to the distributing centre. It was not easy to locate it, for it kept on moving from place to place. On her way Nina came upon sailors' outpost.

The Honorary Treasurer, Governor's War Fund, has addressed the following letter dated 3rd January 1944, to the Honorary Treasurer, Greek Relief Appeal, Madras :—

With reference to the sum of £10,000 remitted by cable on the 21st ultimo under your instructions for payment to the President, Greek Red Cross Executive Committee, London, I append for your information copy of a telegram, dated 2 th December 1943 received from London.

"GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT TEN THOUSAND POUNDS. PLEASE EXPRESS WHOLEHEARTED THANKS GREEK RED CROSS TO ALL CONCERNED.

—CAWADIUFM—"

—P.W.C.

"What do you want the distributing centre for?" a dashing sailor with his cap pulled down over his eyebrows asked her. "Stay right here. There are twenty-three of us and we need a nurse badly."

The platoon commander eyed the girl for a while; her sun-burnt face and her light, blond hair offered the picture of health.

"Pugnose, oh?" said he with a smile. "Well, pugnose are especially those who come from Kuban—desperate lot. You can stay with us."

The sailors produced several sailors' outfits: "Here, pick out some that will fit you."

And Nina stayed with the sailors' unit.

On September 15, 1942, Nina went to sea for the first time. In the night her detachment landed behind the Roumanian lines. All the day long men spent in the abandoned trench and in the night they tore into village and attacked the enemy who suspected nothing.

On the following day, Roumanians discovered the detachment's hiding place. In the ensuing fight commanders were killed but sailors held their ground until nightfall when several of our launches drew up and took men on board. Loading herself with tommy-guns, wounded Nina was helping the latter to reach the shore. Climbing up on the board she slipped and fell into water. Heavy arms were dragging her down to the bottom; collecting all her strength, she came up to the surface and was hauled on board by sailors.

Three times the young girl sailor accompanied her comrades in daring raids carried out from sea behind the enemy's lines. She was never heard to complain of difficulties and was never seen to shed a tear. She had become a hardened militant woman by now. Great was the surprise of her comrades when one day Nina, seeing a bearded man entering the dug-out, fell on his neck and began to cry like a little child. The man turned out to be her father who had come to ask for arms for his partisans, and by the wildest of chances, had met his daughter whom he had not heard of ever since they parted at the door of their home.

The meeting between the father and the daughter did not last long, for that night Nina left with her comrades for operation behind the enemy's lines. This time the detachment had no luck: for some reason cutters failed to call for them and the sailors ran out of food. In the meantime Roumanians found out the sailor's hiding place and undertook a regular hunt for them. They set afire woods wherein sailors were hiding and tried to track them down with dogs, but fortunately rain had obliterated every track. Then the daring raiders decided to break up in small groups and try to reach their base across the front line.

Nina, with three sailors—all near the point of exhaustion set out on journey; in their long plodding journey they lived on wild pears and berries.

Once they came upon some Germans and, in a skirmish, one of the sailors was killed and another lost. A single hand-grenade was all that was left between Nina and the sailor Bakumenko, and this they were keeping to blow themselves up in the event of their falling in German hands. Utterly exhausted, with their gums bleeding and their legs swollen, they walked along the last few days in a semi-delirious state. Not far from the front they were picked up by some partisans.

Nina recovered rapidly and returned to her unit. Soon afterwards men were being picked for major Kunikov's asault group and this girl who had so distinguished herself, was taken on by her own request. Nina was among the first of the landing group of sailors who went ashore behind enemy lines in cold February night of 1943. Paying no heed to the whistling of bullets and shells, she began to take care of the wounded. The detachment entrenched itself in a salient on the shore and held it throughout spring, summer and autumn up to the moment when Novorossisk and the entire Taman peninsula were captured by our troops. All this time Nina was with her unit; she saved the lives of 40 sailors. For her exploits she was decorated with the Order of Red Star and Order of the Patriotic War Second Class.

When the operations were over and the Germans were driven out, the command sent Nina to naval military medical college. Her teachers feel sure that this brave girl will make an excellent surgeon.

THE MOSCOW SPIRIT

By TATIANA TESS

I met a woman in the street the other day whose face looked familiar to me. She saw me too, ran forward to meet me, waving her hand and smiling. But I simply could not place her.

"So we meet again!" she exclaimed and seized my hand. "What is the matter? Don't you know me? Remember the autumn of 1941?"

And then it all came back to me.

It was during the time when Germans were so dangerously close to Moscow. Those were anxious, grim days . . . Defence liners were hastily thrown up around Moscow and every day suburban trains took large parties of diggers to the construction jobs. There were women wrapped in shawls, girls in skitrousers, juveniles—indeed, anyone who could help in the urgent work.

I was sent by my paper to one of the sectors in order to help issue a special news-sheet. Long did I remember that cold, windy gloomy day—trains loaded with factory equipment at the station with grim-faced workers guarding them; weeping women getting into trains and holding their children tightly to them . . . we drove past the station and took the suburban highway. Military cars passed us along the road.

Then we reached our destination. It was a neat and picturesque suburban settlement. Pretty summer cottages quartered newly arrived workers. Girls, with knapsacks on their backs marched along the footpaths on which early snow mingled with autumn leaves. Out in the fields work was already under way. I walked in that direction. Climbing hill, I looked around. As far as the eye could reach, there were mounds of fresh moist earth just dug up.

A tremendous belt of fortifications girded the capital. These deep trenches had been dug by women of Moscow. A dank, earthy smell hung in the air. On my right there was a group of women digging in absolute silence: intent on their job. I noticed particularly one rather stout woman among them, who was evidently the brigade leader. She wore a kerchief on her head and her cheeks were red from wind and work. She seemed to set the pace and to be helping those who lagged behind—correcting the movements of one or another of her group. She also kept an eye on the progress they were making. And when she saw that her group was slowing down, she would announce a recess of five minutes. During the first rest interval I heard her voice. She said something cheerful, even humourous, to her women and adjusted the kerchief of one of them. I could see that there was a mutual understanding and friendship among them. Then the brigade took up their shovels again, and their leader, working harder than the rest, continued to keep a keen eye on the progress they were all making.

During the dinner interval I became more closely acquainted with this woman. Her name is Agrafena Molodykh, a housewife whose husband, Vasily Molodykh, is a mechanic at the front. I spent a week in that sector working on paper, and during that time I grew fonder and fonder of this simple Russian woman of a charming personality who handled this work—so new to her—with such efficiency.

Two years have passed since Germans were defeated near Moscow. How long ago those anxious evil days seem now! But the memory of that week has remained. And now here is Agrafena Molodykh and I was extremely glad to see her again.

"My dear!" I exclaimed as I noticed that she was wearing ribbons of decoration. "Congratulations!"

"Yes," replied Agrafena; "I got that for digging. Remember . . . "

I threw my arms around her and kissed her. She was so big and strong and capable . . . This was a true Moscow woman.

BASHARAT MIRBABAYEVA—A RESTLESS GIRL

By LUDMILA VEPRITSKAYA

THE old part of Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, known as the Old Town, is a strange combination of the old and new. There are large European buildings, factories, public institutions, clubs and alongside there is a labyrinth of narrow streets, lines with white cracked walls and native houses. The oriental fashion walls facing the street are blind; they have no windows, so that eyes of a strange man may not chance to see the face of an Uzbek woman.

Basharat was born in one such house 25 years ago. Basharat's father was a poor potter and had many mouths to feed; but he was enduring as camel and worked day and night. His wife who was constantly heavy with child—some of them died and others were born—laundered for rich families to help feed their children.

Barefoot, little Basharat was a nurse maid. A quick-witted, noisy child, she got a goodly share of beating from her father who strictly adhered to old customs and believed that women were slaves of men and dare not to think of equality. But, regardless of beating, little Basharat began to go to school.

Her mother was a bony back and protected her from father's cane. She wished her daughter a better life than that which fell her lot.

Basharat graduated from high school and wanted to go to college, but her family needed her help, so she got the job of a telegraph operator in railway station.

Once Basharat visited the air club. She became interested in parachute jumping and, and in 1935, made her first leap.

It was the first leap which the Uzbek girl made. Basharat began to learn to fly both plane and glider.

"I was not satisfied with being the only girl parajumper", says Basharat; "I wanted other girls and fellows to keep me company," and she got them to. Many of her comrades have become pilots and parajumpers.

Two years later Basharat read about Rezinaida Troitskaya, a Russian girl locomotive driver, and decided to become one also. She took a locomotive engineer's course and then worked as second driver for three years after which she began to drive independently. She was Uzbekistan's first girl locomotive driver.

"I am an ordinary Uzbek girl", says Basharat; "I was veiled and kept behind locked doors, but the Soviet Constitution gave me the possibility of becoming what I am."

Later in 1941 Basharat visited the western front with a delegation from Uzbekistan. This glimpse of German brutalities and the heroism of our men made a deep impression on her.

On coming home she returned to her locomotive, convinced that this was an important war effort.

Last spring Basharat came to a meeting of the Women's Anti-Fascist Committee in Moscow where she met Zinaida Poitskaya—the first woman locomotive driver. They had a long talk and the young Uzbek girl was eager to learn from the experience gained by her older friend.

Back again in Tashkent, Basharat Mirbabayeva formed the first women's locomotive team. Six energetic girls taught how to drive a locomotive.

This team works well, runs its train strictly in schedule and economizes fuel. Good work brought the locomotive driver medal for meritorious labour.

"What do you plan to do when the war is over," I asked Basharat Mirbabayeva.

"I intend to study and become a locomotive building engineer."

GERMAN CRUELTY IN LENINGRAD

By NIKOLAI VORONOV

IN their communiqués Germans and Finns not infrequently report that their long-range guns are striking military objectives in Leningrad. I want to tell my readers about one such "military" objective hit by the enemy artillery fire.

It happened several days ago in one of the busiest thoroughfares in the city. Since the morning the enemy artillery had been bombarding the residential districts of the city. Shells burst in the streets and squares; pierced walls of apartment houses, hospitals, children's institutions and schools. Then there was a brief pause. Passenger and vehicle traffics were resumed in the district that had been subjected to enemy fire. The tramcar number 1881 proceeded along its route and the number of its passengers kept increasing. Tatiana Konkina, conductress, were very busy in handing out fare tickets. In the car conversation was lively and everybody was discussing the bombardment that had just ended.

Just as the tram was about to make a turn, the enemy opened a squall of fire. One of the shells pierced the roof of the car. There were heart-rending shrieks and groans. Germans had damaged another "military" objective in Leningrad. Bombardment continued but ambulances with doctors and nurses of the local A.R.P. service were already rushing to the aid of the victims of the fascist barbarians. It was just as it is at the front. Lydia Davydova, Anastasia Isakova and other girls gave first-aid to the wounded. And ambulances rapidly removed the victims to hospitals.

One of the passengers, Angelina Tinogenova, seventeen-year-old and a student was seriously wounded in the arm and the thigh. Twenty-year-old Antonina Bolotina, also a student and the only daughter of her mother received a bad stomach wound. Others wounded were Yevdokia Rodionova factory worker; Ivan Glushkov elderly artist; Anna Grekova, director of Kindergarten and others. Many were beyond aid.

Among the passengers of the tramcar whose bodies were delivered in the Leningrad morgue were those of Alexandra Filimomowa, aged twenty-three, a student of the medical institute; Mov Bentsianov, a sixty-year-old teacher; the nurse Vera Zagrevskya, aged twenty-two; Maria Speridonova, housewife and nineteen-year-old Olog Astametrov, an electrician. After bombardment I visited hospitals whose victims had been removed. In one of the wards I found Vera Kulikova of fifteen years who lay mortally wounded. Tossing restlessly on her cot, she said: "Dear nurse, when I calm down, do not take me away. It will mean that I have gone to sleep. Do not take me away for a long time; do not think me dead. I want very much to live. The Fascists have crippled me. It is good here nurse and you are very gentle. Our boys will take revenge on the Fascists."

This schoolgirl of Leningrad had just entered upon the threshold of her life and died cursing the German and Finnish bandits who cut short her young life.

EXPERT MURDERERS

The enemy is bombarding Leningrad systematically: block by block. They are expert murderers. They are savages who have mastered the complex technique of extermination. They know that their ends are near and, like mortally wounded beasts, are growing especially savage.

The other day the Soviet Information Bureau stated, "Systematic bombardment of the city has one aim namely, destroy dwelling houses, cultural monuments and exterminate the civilians of Leningrad." It also pointed out that the chief instigators of this barbaric destruction of Leningrad—entirely uncalled for from the view point of military necessity, are Finnish officers. But the latter need not think that they will escape punishment at the hands of the liberty-loving peoples.

Thousands and thousands of Germans and Finnish have found their graves near Leningrad. Our batteries in the Leningrad front and the warships of the Baltic fleet are already meting out just retribution to butchers. But the payment in full for all the Fascists' crimes, including the murder of the people in car number 1881, is still ahead. The Red Army and the armies of Allied powers will make Germans and Finns pay in full for all their ghastly atrocities.

AN AFFIDAVIT ON GERMAN ATROCITIES

By NINA BOIKOVA, ELENA PAVLOVA AND KOLOSOVA

(Boikova and Pavlova were inhabitants of Minkino village in the Kalinin region; Kolosova of the Borshovka village in the Kalinin region. In February 1943, Nina Boikova and Elena Pavlova—nineteen and fifteen years old respectively—along with other villagers were driven to the deportation camp in the village of Yartzovo-Gurevo in the Smolensk region. Another hundred persons—among them 21-year-old Anastasia Kolosova—were driven to camp from the village of Borshovka. At the end of August, 1943, when the Red Army was advancing in the Smolensk direction, the three girls managed to escape from the camp and join up with the Red Army units.)

WHEN our districts were occupied, Germans appointed their elders in the villages. Germans handed out numbered wooden tabs to every villager and made us wear them on the left side of our chest. All check ups were made according to these tabs: if at rollcall number four was missing for example, then numbers five and six were shot on the spot. Germans forced inhabitants to dig trenches and fell and cut trees. There was no food and the people were starving.

In February, 1943 when the Red Army was driving the German invaders towards the west and the frontline was drawing nearer, the German brutes drove us off with them and imprisoned us in the deportation camp in the village of Yartzevo-Gurevo, Yartzevo district in the Smolensk region. We marched for twenty days before we reached the camp. The German escort immediately shot anyone who could not keep up. Thus were forty-five persons shot along the way. Many died of hunger and disease. When we arrived at the camp we were placed in cold sheds. In the camp there were 1,700 people and the invaders made everyone work without any concern for their state of health or age.

We worked from seven in the morning till late at night with no time off for dinner. We had no restdays. A policeman, armed with tommygun, was placed in charge of every brigade of fifteen to twenty persons and his job was to speed up those who lagged behind. The police shot any one who could not work. Anyone late to the rollcall was placed in dungeon and deprived even of the daily starvation ration which he received. We were allowed to move to the ground camp only until nine in the evening. If anyone was out after nine he was shot. Prisoners in the camp received a thin soup made of potatoes or millet husks once a day. Bread, which was half sawdust, was rationed out at 150 grams a day.

Typhus, dysentery and other epidemic diseases raged in the camp and dozens of people died every day. No medical attention was given to these who fell ill.

When the Red Army drew near to the town of Yartzevo, the Germans carried off 1,200 persons to forced labour in Germany—their number including women, old men and minors. Only a few, including ourselves, were able to escape from the German servitude.

GROWTH OF AIR SUPPORT IN MEDITERRANEAN WAR

By WING COMMANDER L. V. FRASER

BEHIND the advance of Britain's Eighth Army across the difficult Sangro and Moro rivers towards Pescara and that of the Fifth Army, now closing in on San Pietro, lies another story which may well rank as a vital turning point in the conduct of co-ordinated air warfare.

It is the expansion of the R.A.F. and Allied air support from the time of its inception in the Western Desert of Egypt during 1941.

From the desert air force, consisting of a few squadrons of Hurricane and Tomahawk fighters together with a sprinkling of Maryland light bombers, has grown a tactical air force, endowed with the ability to apply the maximum striking power at the right moment.

The matter did not end with the expansion, equipment and perfection of the complicated organisation. It went much deeper.

From the time when the Eighth Army was formed a Combined Army Air Headquarters came into being. Air Marshal Coningham, Air Commander in the Desert, thus maintained the closest physical contact and complete understanding with the army.

Methods providing effective air co-operation were continually improved in the light of practical experience so that latter on the Tactical Air Force, working with the Eighteenth, subsequently the Fifteenth Army Group, in the Joint Headquarters was able to give General Alexander all the assistance he required.

TEDDER'S SCHEME

During the final stages of the North African campaign the enormous advantages derived from constant air support to ground operations became overwhelmingly obvious. Air Chief Marshal Tedder then developed an ambitious method of utilising the striking power of all the air forces simultaneously. Thus while heavy bombers of the Strategic Air Force pounded enemy objectives in accordance with the plans evolved much earlier, the Tactical Bomber Force of medium bombers operated at a moment's notice wherever required, while fighters and fighter bombers of the Tactical Air Force concentrated on air interception and escort duties.

Then came the acid test of the gigantic amphibious operation directed against Sicily.

The effective operational radius of Allied aircraft was, however, not severely tested until the time of the Salerno landings. Until the landing grounds on the Italian mainland could be coverted, fighters were called upon to give cover to the Allied troops on the beaches at an unprecedented range.

Here Air Marshal Coningham evolved a bold plan, based upon the intimate knowledge of the capabilities of his pilots together with an equally important knowledge of the fact that long-range fighters of the Tactical Air Force would be available in large numbers.

The problem of range did not, of course, beset the light, medium or heavy bombers so that Tedder's "carpet" unfurled itself over the landing beaches at a time when it was most needed. In addition during the day light, the assault troops also had the support of the Fleet Air Arm.

At night an adequate number of night fighters took up cudgels and continued to protect Allied troops until day-break when the process began all over again.

TWICE THE BOMBLOAD

The enemy's road and rail communications, his gun positions, shipping and supply depots and airfields received merciless and continuous pounding.

Today in terms of striking power, the air support available to the advancing Allied armies is roughly 200 per cent greater than it was even during the latter stages of the North African campaign.

Not only has the use of new and more modern aircraft in the strategic bomber force stepped up its hitting power to an immense degree, but the Mitchells, which now constitute the main weapon of the Tactical Air Force, are able to carry twice the bomb-load of the light bombers used in the early days.

R.A.F. FORMS BAND IN INDIA

The Royal Air Force in India owns only one regimental band but it enjoy as the unusual distinction of having all its men trained in India. Built up from very small beginnings this band is now engaged for parades at various Royal Air Force stations. A six-foot drum-major is the leader of the band and there is the inevitable big drum carried by an airman with an apron of panther skin. All its pipers have had previous playing experience but the rest of the band were trained entirely in India, by Sergt. Roy Mogford, a Welshman, who had considerable pre-war experience in musical circles in South Wales.

Officers and friends of the regiment in India have presented various parts of the paraphernalia which go to make smartness in a regimental band. The magnificent scarf which the drum-major wears was presented by the officers and the panther skin was given by a civilian admirer.

SIR HENRY MAITLAND WILSON

NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF MEDITERRANEAN THEATRE

THE nickname Jumbo, by which he is known throughout the British Army, describes General Wilson's height and bulk and his ponderous and benevolent manner.

Behind his imperturbable geniality is the swift mind of one of the most brilliant and successful leaders of the war.

He has a habit of looking over the top of his glasses, while he is digesting the intelligence reports sent to him. Suddenly, his apparent woolgathering ceases—and his commands come swiftly.

For General Wilson believes in fast fighting. Marshal Graziani discovered that. It was General Wilson who led the brilliant dash of the mechanised forces across the Libyan desert in the Wavell campaign.

After that campaign, Mr. Churchill said of him: "Few will deny that he is one of our finest tacticians."

He is the most accessible of military commanders. But you never know how he is going to be dressed. His dress is the most eccentric in the Middle East.

At dawn, out riding in the desert, he wears a khaki sweater. At his desk he is likely to be wearing a sweater and shorts. Above the khaki jersey or shirt is the benign red face and shrewd little deep-set eyes.

For all his 18½ stone, General Wilson is active and extremely fit. He rides whenever he can, and if duty takes him to the sea he has a swim. He had many a quite dip off our northern flank on his desert campaign against Graziani.

During his campaigns he insists on making himself comfortable. "Any fool can be uncomfortable," he says. So once he has made his plans he settles down to a book in the most comfortable chair he can find. He likes good food, but does not take wine. He likes cigars, but never smokes them in the field or in his office.

And in the field those eyes which peer benevolently over his office spectacles are so keen that he can spot objects which his staff officers take 10 minutes to find with field glasses.

But Maitland Wilson is much more than a good soldier and a skilful planner, he is a fine leader of men. He picks his officers—drive and energy are the first qualities he demands—gets to know them and makes them his friends. As for the men—they said of him in the African campaign: "If Jumbo Wilson decided to swim his army to Italy, there would be a rush to see who would dive in first."

That sums up his gift of leadership and inspiration. There are other stories, too; of the General who took off his coat and helped Tommies to dig trenches on the Egyptian frontier; of the staff officer in the last war, who joined a fatigue party cleaning out a well. "The sooner we had it clean, the sooner I could have a drink," explained Sir Maitland to a brother officer.

General Wilson, who is 63, joined the Rifle Brigade in 1900, and immediately saw service in the South African War. He has mastered every new development of warfare and has always been ready to apply new methods.

When the first completely mechanised brigade was formed in the British Army in 1935, General Wilson was made its commander. Just before the war began he was sent out to organize the defences of Egypt and the Western Desert.

Ever since then he has remained in the Middle East.

That is the man, swift and thorough in planning and imperturbable in action.

—"*Sunday Express.*"

CAUSES OF EIGHTH ARMY'S SLOW PROGRESS

By LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR DOUGLAS BROWNRIGG

I know enough to realize what the Eighth Army has to do in order to cross river after river in Italy against heavy enemy shelling and dive-bombing. I think perhaps the reason why a lay mind fails to understand the intricacy of crossing a river against opposition lies in the loose form of speech which talks of "throwing a bridge across a river."

Indeed there is no "throwing" about it. It is a laborious and a highly dangerous undertaking. Let us attempt to follow the various stages which have to be gone through.

First, a party must gain a footing on the far shore—either by swimming or possibly by ferrying. This may be done secretly, but more likely under a considerable weight of supporting force. This covering party then has to clear the opposite bank of hidden riflemen so that sappers can launch pontoons with some hope of success.

Not until the bridge itself is across and capable of use can a covering force rely on any support other than that provided by air and by artillery on the near shore. Anti-tank guns, armoured and fighting vehicles cannot take part in the battle on the far shore until the bridge itself is over, and heavy tanks have to await the erecting of a heavier bridge. But even when a bridge is installed, it is subjected to hostile artillery fire and modern artillery can be very effective up to a distance of 10 miles.

It stands to reason, therefore, that no bridgehead can be considered even reasonably secure until the forces which have crossed the bridge have fought sufficiently hard to drive the enemy back at least 10 miles.

Yet it is a historical fact that no river has ever yet proved to be a decisive check in war. It has a delaying power but no stopping power and it is interesting to seek the reason.

It is almost an axiom that the side which defends a river line is the weaker opponent. If it were otherwise, it is unlikely that he would be on the defensive, but would himself be trying to cross and destroy his enemy. As a result the defender can generally be occupied in one place whilst the stronger attacker seeks another to effect his main crossing. As the attacker is himself automatically defended from any serious counter-attacks by the very obstacle which impedes his own crossing, he can afford to bluff in many places whilst he concentrates in the vital one. If the attacker has supremacy in the air, he has an added advantage, because his enemy may have difficulty in spotting his dispositions from the air and he cannot get information from the ground save by patrols which have to swim the river to get it.

Thus the longer a river line the easier it is to cross by means of stretching the defender to his limit by feints in many places.

But in Italy the comparatively narrow front makes feinting less easy and the swollen nature of the streams must make bridging a far more difficult business than usual. All this goes to show why the advance of our forces in Italy is slow, but that does not mean the rivers will ever prove uncrossable obstacles unless the Germans were so reinforced that they could launch a major counter-attack across the width of Italy. Then the rivers would be on our side!

SOUTH INDIANS BUILD EIGHTH ARMY CAMP

From building bridges and laying down miles of road, Tamils, Telugus and Malayalis, members of an Indian engineer unit somewhere in Italy, have now gone in for the erected of a self-contained rest camp for the men of the Eighth Army.

When complete the camp will house several thousand troops and will have many new features including a new theatre, a cinema, a N.A.A.F.I. restaurants, bars, and reading and writing rooms.

When an Indian Army Observer saw them on the rest camp site they were industriously operating concrete mixers, stone-crushers, driving steam-rollers, erecting sections of buildings, and engaged in plumbing and carpentry.

They have been quick to learn the rupee-lire exchange rates. Their beer ration goes down well but the sourish Italian wine is strange to their palate and is sipped gingerly.

BRITAIN'S POST-WAR PLANS

By STEPHEN KING-HALL.

IN the King's speech made at the opening of Britain's Parliament, there occurred the words: "My Ministers are resolved, so far as the future can be foreseen, that they shall be ready to meet the different tasks that await them when the victory has been won . . . It will be the primary aim of my Government to ensure in this period (of transition from war to peace) that food, homes and employment are provided for the people."

In a previous article I outlined the preliminary reaction of the House of Commons to the Government's plans for the period of 1943–44 and the kind of question which the Ministers were being asked.

In reply to the debate, the Government has cautiously begun to fill in the details. As regards housing, the Government had decided that new ideas in house construction must be fully turned to account and the Minister for Production announced that a series of experimental houses is being erected for demonstration purposes. In this connexion a committee of Members of Parliament has just been to the United States in order to examine house-building developments in that country, particularly the subject of pre-fabricated homes. In addition to their plans for long-term housing programme, the Government is also preparing a short-term scheme for emergency and temporary accommodation which will be urgently required as soon as the war is over.

The Government has informed the House that a White Paper is in preparation which will give the Cabinet's views on questions relating to social security.

To the impatient, the Minister pleaded that immensely complicated administrative problems had to be tackled and it was a case of more haste and less speed. He pointed out, for instance, that the proposal for a comprehensive medical service which is only one of the aspects of social security now under review will involve altering the number of medically insured people from its present figure of 18,000,000 to 44,225,000.

The third point about the post-war period on which the Government has so far revealed its mind is the question of change-over from war to peace production.

The problem will be tackled "industry by industry" in consultation with the President of the Board of Trade to whom industrial capacity in men and machines will be released; first, so that it may be turned over to make goods for civilian consumption in Britain; secondly, so that goods can be made for export; thirdly, so that Britain shall make a contribution towards the problem of relief in liberated territories.

The Minister who made these announcements stated that the Government was confident that it could handle post-war problems. Its confidence lay not only in itself as a Government but sprung from a more important source—from the Government's unbounded confidence in the people of Britain who had written an unperishable record during the last four years.

BATTLE AGAINST DISEASE

By RICHARD TITMUSS

DISEASE has always reaped a rich harvest in time of war. It has done so quietly and insidiously under cover of the conditions created by war because dirt and insanitary conditions are inseparable from fighting. The louse and carriers of typhus, the enteric fevers and other diseases are determined camp followers. It has been said with truth that the real conquerors of the Roman Empire were not the Goths and the Vandals but malaria and plague. Disease has, in the past, settled a good many wars. And the victors have not always been the strongest military power. Even when modern artillery arrived disease still claimed the most victims. In the American Civil War, the Federal Army lost twice as many men from disease as from wounds. In the Crimean War mortality from dirt diseases among the fighting men was immensely high. The real hero of that war was Florence Nightingale who reduced mortality from wounds and disease among the soldiers by two-thirds. Yet we didn't take those lessons fully to heart. We still thought in terms of the dramatic—shell fire and the bayonet. In the South Africa War over fourteen thousand British soldiers died of disease as against eight thousand who were killed in battle or died of wounds. But it was not until the last war that we realized how greatly the civilians are also involved in this battle against disease. Insufficient food, overcrowding, poor clothing, long hours of work—all these things reduce resistance to disease among the people at home. Let us see how the civilians as compared with the soldiers fared in the last war. Among the British Forces 550,000 were killed or died of wounds and disease. These men are remembered by their country but how many people know that the war directly caused the deaths of 340,000 civilians from disease? For every ten fighting men who died seven civilians were carried off by disease caused by the war. In Europe it was much worse than that. Germany lost an additional quarter of a million civilians from tuberculosis alone. In the whole world disease claimed ten million people.

We cannot have a better illustration of the growing inter-dependence of all nations than the effects of modern war on disease. For one thing, easier and faster transport all over the earth can lead to the rapid spread of epidemics—witness the movement of the influenza outbreak in 1919. This epidemic had its roots in the conditions created by the war in Europe. But the disease did not confine itself to the warring countries in Europe. For instance, more people died of war influenza in India than the total battle losses of all belligerents between 1914 and 1918. Even some of the remote islands of the Pacific suffered more heavily than the people of Britain. One-quarter of the population of Samoa died from influenza. They would not have died but for the war, so there can be no neutrals in the war against disease. The louse doesn't recognize frontiers, tuberculosis ignores race and language. Neutrality in this war, by lengthening the period of fighting, *must* mean greater mortality from disease among the neutrals.

GREATEST ENEMY

We knew, from the lessons of history, that when this war came one of our greatest enemies would be disease. That at every turn, in the home, in the street and in the hospital, the battle would have to be relentlessly waged. The dangers in 1939 were far greater than in 1914. The bomber had increased the opportunities for disease to spread. It was clear that if we didn't control the situation then the microbe and other parasites would control us. The bomber, with high explosive and incendiary bombs, would blast a way for the germ and for the barrack-room diseases such as spotted fever. Well—we weren't far wrong. This is what happened. High explosive has burst open the mains and blended water with sewerage. Gas mains have been punctured and flames have risen fifty feet. The bombs have shaken up the dust and dirt of centuries in London and other cities and it has got into our clothes, our homes and our food. Worse than that, however, is the fact that people have been driven to crowd together in basements, shelters and tube stations. Hundreds of thousands of people, old and young, healthy and sick, dirty and clean, have been forced at times to spend fifteen hours out of every twenty-four in ill-ventilated holes and tunnels. For nearly a year a very large section of the people lived in this way. To-day conditions are better but for four years we have had to sleep in blacked-out, badly ventilated rooms. Many of us have to spend all our working hours in bricked-up offices and factories. In too many parts of the country the housing shortage is so acute that beds are never cold. Two workers will rent one bedroom and the day shift takes over the bed when the night shift goes to work. The crowding together in buses and trains, theatres and cinemas is just as bad. There is one town which started the blitz with thirty-five cinemas. When Goering had done his best there were only two left. This is one example of how the destruction of thousands of houses and other buildings, and the stoppage of all new building, has forced people to crowd together. In most of the large cities we are living on top of one another. The war has boxed us up. In factory, office and workshop all available space is in use. Empty flats and

houses are almost impossible to obtain. In London and other cities we have to wait patiently for crowded buses, trains and meals. We eat and travel with, so to speak, a strange elbow in our back. We sleep, on fire-watching nights, to the accompaniment of the noise of a stranger. We shut out the air and we only see the stars when we are on civil defence duty. It isn't pleasant but it is war. And we know, like you people over on your side of the globe, that we are all in it. But the danger here, where there is so little room to turn round—mentally as well as physically—is the greater chance of disease spreading. The less room that we have in which to live the greater the opportunity for the microbe. Those are the environmental risks of modern war. And they are greatest in the congested industrial centres.

OTHER SECTORS

But housing, air, sun and pure water—these are only one aspect of the battle. There are other sectors of this campaign of which food is the most important. And we now know that it is the composition of the diet which is so vital for health. During the Russo-Japanese war there were two million cases of beri-beri in the Japanese Army but none in the Navy. The rations were about the same except that the sailors' diet included ten ounces of whole barley, and those ten ounces made all the difference. The collapse of the Italians at Caporetto in October 1917 was due in part to the fact that the Italian Army ration was twenty per cent lower than that of the British, French and German. There is a saying in the East expressive of food deficiencies: "It is better to walk than to run; it is better to stand than to walk; it is better to lie than to stand; it is better to sleep than to wake; it is better to die than to live." It is a way of expressing, in other words, progressive Vitamin B-1 deficiency. It contributed to the collapse of Germany in 1918 and affected many of the Armies. To-day we see that the civilian ration is as good for maintaining health as the army ration.

So far I have given some examples of how disease can turn the scales of war and I have described how the bomber has opened up vast new territories for the germ and the virus to attack. Yet after nearly four years of war Britain's health record is good. How is that? Have we conquered disease or are we only holding it at bay? In a small country like Britain, with a highly elaborate and centralized system of health and sanitary control the bomber could have wrecked administration in a short time. So the first step that we took was to decentralize our machine for the prevention and cure of disease. This was an important act and out of it has developed a new pattern for the future. Mothers can now leave the cities and have their babies in maternity homes in the country. Thousands of under-fives are living in country hostels—some of them are orphans while in other cases both parents are working or are in the Forces. The sick and wounded are sent to country hospitals to recuperate. Since the beginning of the war the Government has helped three million people to leave London and other bombed areas for a time.

On the mental plane the knowledge that evacuation was always open has proved to be an immensely useful safety valve. And when we are fighting strain and weariness and all the minor irritations of war, safety valves are good things to have. One of the most surprising facts about this war is the general absence of nervous breakdowns—or war neurosis. All the psychiatrists predicted a collapse in mental health. Instead we've had a decline in the number of cases.

HOME FRONT

In addition to these wise administrative measures we've called in science and the techniques of planning to aid us on the home front. Supplementary feeding, vitamin concentrates, fruit juices, the soya bean, fortified bread, communal feeding, and a host of other measures have helped to sustain health. Then we have had the new drugs—the sulphonamides—which have already saved thousands of lives. But the story of the advances made by medical science in this war is a long one. The use of dried blood, mass radiography, new methods of cleansing air raid shelters, improvements in war surgery, new treatment of shell blast, new knowledge of the habits of the itch-mite, are all part of the story. Never in so short a space of time has such a revolution been wrought in the treatment of so many diseases. All this, and, perhaps most important of all, full employment and regular wages, have held disease at bay. But it is never far away. For instance by the end of 1942, eleven thousand more people died from tuberculosis in England and Wales over the peacetime figure. They would not have died but for the war. This is a small increase compared with the last war but it is a warning that we must remain on guard. We must go on thinking in terms of prevention; of building up resistance to weariness—the forerunner of disease—until, after victory, we can all have a long, sunlit holiday.

PRESERVATION OF CATTLE WEALTH

In order to prevent permanent damage to the cattle wealth of the country as a result of the increase in the slaughter of cattle for the supply of beef to the army the Government of India have prohibited the slaughter of working bulls in a good state of health below the age of ten years, cows in milk and pregnant cows. It has been brought to the notice of the Madras Government that good quality cattle are being slaughtered for civilian consumption also. At a special meeting held recently, the Provincial Livestock Improvement Board recommended that in addition to the classes of cattle specified by the Government of India, dry cows and heifers fit for breeding and young bulls fit for work should not be slaughtered whether for civilian consumption or for the army and that it should be made penal for a person to sell cows for purposes of slaughter if in the opinion of an Inspecting Officer they are found to be suitable for breeding. The Government have accepted this recommendation and have decided to give effect to it immediately.

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (*a*) of sub-rule (2) of rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules, His Excellency the Governor of Madras is hereby pleased to make the following order :—

No person shall, after the publication of this order, whether by himself or by his agent, slaughter or cause to be slaughtered for purposes of consumption, civil or military, or sell or purchase or cause to be sold or purchased for purposes of such consumption, any of the following categories of cattle, namely :—

(i) Bulls, bullocks or buffaloes below the age of ten years in a good state of health and suitable for work ;

(ii) Cows or buffaloes in milk ;

(iii) Pregnant cows or buffaloes ;

(iv) Dry cows or buffaloes and heifers suitable for breeding purposes.

Explanation.—If any doubt arises as to whether any animal falls within any of the categories mentioned above or not, it shall be presumed that the animal falls within such category unless a declaration is obtained from a Veterinary officer not below the rank of Veterinary Assistant Surgeon certifying that the animal does not fall within such category.

2. Collectors of districts and the Director of Veterinary Services are requested to issue instructions to their subordinates to ensure that the orders contained in the notification in paragraph 1 above are strictly enforced.

The Commissioner of the Corporation of Madras and Executive Authorities of Municipalities and District and Panchayat Boards are also requested to take such steps as may be necessary to give effect to these orders.

WEEKLY JOTTINGS

By "CHRONICLER"

GENERAL VATUTIN'S ADVANCE —RUSSO-POLISH BORDER PROBLEM—CENTRAL EUROPE.

The year 1944 begins well for the Allies in the sense that it promises them nothing more or nothing less than a decisive victory before it is out. Their achievements in the previous year which helped them to turn the corner and come within sight of what Mr. Churchill would call the frontiers of deliverance lend colour to this promise, while their own military strength built up from day to day by the sheer exercise of the indomitable will of their leaders, and colossal sacrifice of the various nations gives the surest indication of the course, the war will take as the year runs its course. The year 1941 was the darkest period of the war for the Allies; 1942 saw a successful struggle for existence; and 1943 brought them to the frontiers of deliverance. The progress is indeed very encouraging and the current year is but a culmination of the commissions and omissions of the previous years. The situation which till lately has been very hazy has now thoroughly clarified itself and even the man in the street is now aware that the enemy simply awaits his doom on the administration of the final blow by the Allies.

The end of 1943 saw some remarkable advances by the Soviet Forces on the Russian Front. The third winter campaign started on December 24, when the Russian armies began a fresh offensive on all the sectors from the Baltic to the Black Sea. Within nine days, Marshal Manstein's southern front virtually crumbled, the German forces began a disorderly retreat and were in complete rout. General Vatutin's army recaptured the Ukrainian cities of Zhitomir and Korosten which the Germans had taken during a recent counter-offensive in the Kiev bulge, and thus cleared the way for the right wing of the Soviet forces on the Ukrainian front to the 1939 frontiers of Poland. The left wing of the same army is also advancing almost as rapidly south-westward and is now within sight of Vinnitsa and the river Bug. The Russian units of the right wing striking against Poland have now reached Sarny, 35 miles inside the pre-1939 Poland, while the left wing striking south is rapidly approaching the Odessa-Poland railway, heavily outflanking Vinnitsa on the south-east by Soviet tanks and mobile guns.

GENERAL VATUTIN'S ADVANCE

The most significant part of General Vatutin's advance of 150 miles from Kiev to the Polish frontier has been the last sixty or seventy miles which were covered within six days since the recapture of Korosten and Zhitomir. On January 4, advance Cossack patrols crossed the Polish border at several points and General Vatutin began driving two powerful spearheads, one towards Sarny and the other towards Rovno, key railway junctions 35 and 55 miles across the border. Since the beginning of the 1943 summer campaign, the Red army has advanced 400 miles of forest, plain and swamp between Kursk and the bleak border-fine beyond Olevsk. The frontier which Hitler took for himself in 1939 along the river Bug is less than 150 miles away, and only 370 miles away, is the nearest outpost of the old German town of Hindenburg in the tip of Silesia. Silesia and Pommerania are already well within range of Soviet heavy bombers, and as the Russians reach the Bug, big areas of eastern and south-eastern Reich and the Czech industrial centres, already exposed to American heavy bombers from Italy, would come within comfortable operation distance for swarms of the Russian light and medium bombers.

RUSSO-POLISH BORDER QUESTION

The entry of the Russian army into Poland has raised an important political question whether the Russians are entering Poland as liberators or as conquerors. It must be noted that no diplomatic relations exist between Soviet Russia and the Polish Government in exile in London, and Russia is adamant in her demand that any restoration of Russo-Polish diplomatic relations, which must be the first step towards a settlement of the differences, must be on the Polish initiative and must be accompanied by unqualified public reaffirmation of Poland's desire for friendly relations with Russia. Russia also insists on the demand that General Sosnowski, General Sikorski's successor as Commander-in-Chief of Polish Forces, must be removed from the Government. Despite British

The centre arrow above indicates the location of Olevsk, the point at which the Russian offensive has smashed across the pre-war Polish-Russian border. The two lower arrows indicate the points from which the Soviet forces are racing westward in an effort to cut off the only land escape of the German forces caught between the Dniester and Dnieper rivers. Pressure also continues against Vitebsk and Zhlobin. The shaded portion of the map represents the only Russian territory now occupied by the German invaders.

interest in bringing about an agreeable solution, the situation appears to have reached a stalemate and the one remaining hope seems to be in the projected visit of the Polish Premier, Mikolajczk to Washington some time in the middle of January.

Russian advance in the Ukraine has created further complications for the German army. The two wings of General Vatutin's army are driving in two different directions as has been already described. Other Russian Forces have reached points between forty and forty-five miles north-east of Zhmerinka, just over forty miles from the Rumanian 1939 border and one of the main German arteries of the southern front. More serious than this is the situation created for the large German forces inside the Dnieper bend, a situation similar to the one at Stalingrad. The Russian advance in the Ukraine also threatens Hitler's headquarters for the whole of the Ukraine at Rovno, particularly after the storming of Berdichev, which has opened the way for a swift extension of the broad Soviet spearhead west of the City towards the great Odessa-Cracow-Berlin trunk railway. This railway is the main lifeline to the German southern armies from their home bases, and on either side of the southward driving Russian wedge, Soviet forces have won the battles for Berdichev and Byelaya-Tserkov. To crown the whole catastrophe, as it were, in the Ukraine, Russian forces under General Koniev have captured on January 8 the great industrial City of Kirovograd, with which Germans have practically lost the battle of the Dnieper Bend.

Zhitomir, Korosten, Olevsk, Novogorod-Volynsk, Byelaya-Tserkov, Berdichev and Kirovograd—these are victories which signify no mean achievement for the Russian army since the start of the third winter campaign on Christmas eve. And this constitutes only one sector of the Russian front. On the Baltic front German command is displaying extreme nervousness about the danger of encirclement at Novo Sokolniki, twenty-five miles north of Nevel, while in the central front, south of Nevel, the Nazi bastion in White Russia, namely, the City of Vitebsk is in imminent danger. On the whole, the third winter offensive appears to be a mere sport for the Russian army which has borne the heavy burden of two previous winter campaigns and the political controversies over Poland have not in the least affected the admiration and enthusiasm with which the other Allied nations are awaiting the culmination of the new offensive. Stalin has never been against an independent Poland and his claim that Eastern Poland occupied in 1939 is an integral part of the Soviet Union is made more or less as a precaution of self-defence and is probably more in consonance with the considered recommendations put forward by the competent commission of the Peace Conference after the last war.

CENTRAL EUROPE

And after all it is idle to speculate what Russian attitude will be towards Poland or any other central or south-eastern European nations. The difficulties of keeping the peace in this part of the world, not to speak of reconstruction in the postwar period, are of no mean order; but the problem of maintaining the peace of the world requires that this part of the world also must be kept peaceful. Ever since the early years of the nineteenth century central Europe has been in perpetual convulsion by the relentless striving of its peoples towards national unity and self-determination. The unification of Germany in 1871 and the birth of modern Italy created an entirely new situation which eliminated France as a danger to Europe and formed the basis of the Anglo-French accord. Germany entered the field of world power-politics and pursued her course of aggrandisement and expansion leading to the climax of Hitler. Before 1914 this fact was dimly recognized in central Europe where the small nations were not only confronted with the wild dreams and power of the Kaiser, but they also faced Austro-Hungary, Czarist-Russia and Feudal Turkey. The hundred million people of the small nations of central and south-eastern Europe were dominated by one or more of these four master nations. After the war of 1914–18 all these powers ceased to exist for a time as arbiters of the fate of small nations. Russia was going through her remarkable internal transformation from the Czarist Empire into the Soviet Union; the Hapsburgs disappeared overnight; the Kaiser went in exile; and Turkey lay prostrate and in the fever of a nationalist revolution.

It was in this atmosphere that the "Succession States" of that region came into being. Poland arose as a state of 35 million people, following three partitions and a century and a half of revolts, oppression and endless struggles for the preservation of her national identity. After three centuries of foreign rule, Czechoslovakia sprang into being as a state of 15 million people with the inheritance of the armament centres of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Kingdom of Yugoslavia united the Serbs, Croates and Slovenes, and emerged from what was Serbia and some provinces from the realm of the Hapsburgs. Thus for the time being the central powers were submerged, and the only power left on the continent of Europe, which could organize anything resembling a system of security was France. The backbone of the new security system was the principle of collective security. But the grand alliance against the central powers had ceased to exist, leaving nothing but the League of Nations to take its place. Tired of war the world relapsed into an era of irresponsibility in the field of international affairs. The United States of America turned away from Europe; Italy was aggrieved over her insufficient reward for her participation in the war; Japan turned her attention to the far East; and Britain embarked on a policy of one-sided disarmament and limitless faith in the League of Nations. France alone sought to maintain the system of security and to the task of holding Germany down. But gradually, she was overtaken in numbers, production and military efficiency by the aggressive powers, and Europe drifted towards another catastrophe. Meanwhile the small nations of central and south-eastern Europe developed steadily as industrial communities, and many of them struggled internally for democracy. But the efforts of twenty years of reborn nations were trampled over by the Nazi hordes.

At the present stage of the war, when the horizon is clearing and justified hopes for deliverance are growing, the small nations are reviewing their position and the future. Poland's suspicions on the entry of the Russian forces into Polish territory are justified on this score. But most of these suspicions are based on selfish interests, not only of Poland but of other states also in this region. The great leaders of the world have already met in Tehran and they could not have overlooked the problem of peace of central and south-eastern Europe. The significant silence on the part of Mr. Churchill and of Mr. Roosevelt in spite of public agitation over the Polish question provides the moral sanction for Stalin's attitude towards Poland and it is too early to read motives into an act which is solely directed towards the liberation of nations groaning under the Nazi yoke. Mr. Churchill is one of those rare statesmen who have made any constructive contribution towards the problem of small nations in Europe as well as in Asia, and his speculation regarding a Council of Europe and a Council of Asia, modified and suited in some form or other, must give a solution for these problems.

THREE MAIN PROBLEMS

In educating the soldiers in health matters the work of the Indian Army Medical Corps has been of immense value. Most forward units are alive to the need for individual effort in keeping down disease and men to whom personal health safeguards previously meant nothing now know how to take care of themselves.

Three main problems of health have to be faced in India and the possible forthcoming theatres of war in Burma and Malaya—malaria, malnutrition and intestinal diseases. Malaria, biggest of the three, is now being steadily controlled; in Assam mobile, specially trained anti-malaria units have reduced the disease to about one-tenth of what it was a year ago.

Malnutrition, not a serious danger among British troops, is a new problem as regards Indian soldiers, who have shown themselves liable to a serious degree of malnutrition when exposed to high incidence of malaria. Shortage of meat and other items, and difficulty of transporting perishable rations such as meat, fruit and vegetables to forward troops, are problems demanding constant attention.

Intestinal diseases are kept down by maintaining the highest standard of sanitation in the field, which is directed by hygiene sections.

The Indian Army Medical Corps tackles all these problems besides providing medical aid in battle. Even in advance areas research work is continued by field laboratories.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

4TH JAN.—Targets in North and West Germany were hit by the Allied bombers. A new decree has been issued in Germany mobilising all German Youth for war purposes.

5TH JAN.—There was slight German activity over South-East England including the Greater London area. Bombs were dropped at several points.

American bombers attacked Kill and Runster.

6TH JAN.—Berlin and Steltin were bombed by Royal Air Force.

7TH JAN.—The Allied aircraft raided places in West and South-West Germany. Ludwigshafen, Mannheim, Rhineland and Westphalia were attacked.

"Three-quarters of Berlin is destroyed" said Army Air Chief General Arnold.

More Canadian troops have reached Britain.

8TH JAN.—Mosquitoes of the Bomber Command attacked objectives in Western Germany.

9TH JAN.—Major-General Beddel Smith of the United States Army will become Chief of Staff to General Eisenhaven in the United Kingdom.

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

4TH JAN.—Rear-Admiral Emnov S. Land, Chairman of the American Maritime Commission, expressed his confidence that when the European invasion is finally ready to begin the Allied shipping would be adequate to meet all the stategic requirements.

President Roosevelt and Mrs. Roosevelt have signed a deed giving their family homestead and 35 acres of land at Hyde Park in New York to the United States Government.

The Commanding-General of the United States Army Air Force General Henry Arnold in a report to the Secretary of War declares, "It is now plain that for us the beginning has ended; for our enemies the end has begun."

The United States Treasury Department has sent invitations to 44 nations to attend an International Monetary Conference to consider postwar reconstruction and trade.

5TH JAN.—The United States submarine "Pompano" has been declared to be lost.

6TH JAN.—President Roosevelt in his 13th Lend-lease report to Congress said 1944 will be the year of decisive action in the war.

7TH JAN.—The United States War Production Board announced that 85,946 military planes were produced in United States in 1943.

8TH JAN.—Mr. Wendell Willkie in a broadcast said 1944 will be "our tough year."

9TH JAN.—Mr. Edward R. Stettinus, United States Lend-lease Administrator and Under Secretary of State, has expressed his opinion on future problems.

10TH JAN.—On the advice of his personal physician President Roosevelt will not deliver his annual message on the state of the Union to Congress in person tomorrow.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

4TH JAN.—A new and more generous scale of rations for men of Royal Indian Navy came into effect on January 1st says a press-note issued today.

The status of Indians in Burma after its re-conquest was discussed at an informal conference held at Bombay. The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare presided.

5TH JAN.—His Excellency the Viceroy presented the Victoria Cross to the widow of Havildar-Major Chhelu Ram and Jamedar Gaje Ghale.

7TH JAN.—A communiqué issued today by the South-East Asia Command narrates Allied air activity on the Burma front during the first few days of January. Important places attacked were Yenangyang, Hebo, Prome and Akyab.

8TH JAN.—In recognition of the services rendered by the personnel of the Indian services during the present war His Majesty the King has approved awards to such personnel of British decorations says a communiqué from New Delhi.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

4TH JAN.—Advanced Cossack patrols have crossed the old Polish-Russian border at several points. Belaya-Iserkova has been captured by the Russians.

5TH JAN.—The Russians captured Berdichev after five days fighting. Soviet forces have reached Sarney, 35 miles west of the pre-war border.

A second meeting of the Polish Cabinet was held in London to consider the situation created by the crossing of the 1939 Russo-Polish frontiers by the advancing Soviet troops.

6TH JAN.—Heavy battles are in full swing north of Kruvoi-rog and east of Kirovograd.

The Polish Government has issued a statement on Russian troops' entry into Poland.

7TH JAN.—Kirovograd is completely encircled by the Red Army. The Russian forces made a breach 60 miles in breadth and 25 miles deep.

8TH JAN.—Troops of the second Ukrainean front occupied Kirovograd a large industrial centre and the most important enemy stronghold in Ukraine.

9TH JAN.—The Russians have captured Polonnoye. The Red Army has forced another break-through into the pre-war Poland.

10TH JAN.—Soviet spearheads are approaching the Odessa-Poland railway.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

4TH JAN.—Indian troops of the Eighth Army seized an important feature overlooking the German line. There were only patrol clashes on the Fifth Army Front. Snow and storms are still holding up large-scale Allied attacks.

5TH JAN.—On the Eighth Army front Indian troops advanced and captured an additional Spur south-west of San Tomasso.

6TH JAN.—British destroyers shelled Pesaro, British and American troops have launched an attack on the Fifth Army front. The Fifth Army has captured half of the village of San Vittore.

Lieutenant-General Sir Oliver Lease has been appointed Commander of the British Eighth Army.

Eight enemy vessels have been sunk in the Mediterranean by British submarines.

7TH JAN.—In the central section of the Fifth Army front Allied troops continued to advance. Bitter fighting is taking place in the town of San Vittore. On the Eighth Army front Indian troops improved their positions.

8TH JAN.—The Fifth Army troops captured San Vittore. There were sharp clashes on the Eighth Army front.

9TH JAN.—The Fifth Army troops have captured Guisto. Patrols are active on the Eighth Army front.

Lieutenant-General Mason Macfarlane has been appointed Deputy President of the Allied Control Commission in Italy.

General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson assumed his duties as Supreme Allied Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean Theatre from January 8th. General Devers of the United States Army assumed his duties of Deputy Supreme Commander. Lieut.-Genl. A. H. Gammel is appointed Chief of Staff in the Mediterranean.

10TH JAN.—Troops of the Fifth Army advanced two miles and captured the 3,800 feet height of Catena Vecchio. British troops have crossed the river Peccia.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

4TH JAN.—The United States Maranders attacked Pas de Calais.

Officers of the Royal Yugol-slav army stationed in the Middle East have joined up with Marshal Tito. Italian formations fighting across the Adriatic have also now come under the command of Marshal Tito.

5TH JAN.—About 750 Allied bombers attacked military objectives in northern France coastal areas. Bordeux and Tours were bombed.

Copenhagen, Zealand, Fyen and Jutland in Denmark were raided by the Allied planes.

Dr. Benes arrived in London.

6TH JAN.—The Gestapo have arrested 600 Yugoslav patriots.

8TH JAN.—The French Consultative Assembly met to discuss the resistance movement inside France.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

4TH JAN.—Premier Nahas Pasha outlined Egypt's hopes for future relations with Britain, especially after the war, in the Egyptian Senate.

7TH JAN.—General Franco made a statement on Spain's future.

9TH JAN.—Arab Federation talks between the Labanese and the Egyptians began this morning at the Egyptian Foreign office. The Egyptian Prime Minister Nahas Pasha, and the Labanese Prime Minisuter Raid el Solh were present.

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THE FAR EAST

4TH JAN.—The United States Navy Secretary Colonel Frank Knox told a press conference that "the Japanese are on the defensive throughout South and South-west Pacific."

Americans attacked Rabaul. Australians advanced about nine miles from Nuzen in the Huon Peninsula.

5TH JAN.—American bombers attacked islands in the Marshall group.

6TH JAN.—Jap. troops north of Finschhafen in New Guinea have disengaged themselves and took up new positions 35 miles away. The Australian troops have made a new landing on the north coast of New Guinea at Cape Gumbi. United States marines in New Britain are pushing forward towards Borgen Bay.

7TH JAN.—Chief of Naval Information Admiral Sir William James and the South Pacific Commander Admiral William Halsey made statements on the war against Japan.

Admiral Nimity returned to Pearl Harbour after a routine conference in San Francisco.

"The Japanese Navy and other fighting forces in the Pacific are only awaiting the time and place to come out and engage the United States in battle" said the Navy Secretary, Colonel Frank Knox.

Allies bombed Milliatoll in Marshalls group.

8TH JAN.—Rabaul in New Britain and Kavieng in New Ireland were bombed by American planes.

A United States Navy Department communiqué says that United States submarines have sunk 10 enemy vessels in the Pacific and the Far East.

9TH JAN.—The American marines are steaming towards Borgen Bay, ten miles from Cape Gloucester airfield in New Britain. Rabaul was bombed. There were widespread attack on Jap. positions.

The above map shows a section of the north-east coast of New Guinea, where American troops made a surprise landing on January 2 at the Port of Saidor, capturing the harbour and airfield and cutting off a Japanese force driven northward from Finschhafen by the Australians. The present location of these Japanese is indicated by the black spot "A". Another Australian party is moving up the Ramu River valley towards the big Jap supply base at Madang, indicated by "B".

FAMILY LINK—ON THE ETHER

Messages broadcast recently by Indian troops serving overseas in the Middle East and in Ceylon to their wives and relatives in India have an unusual keynote.

"Keep sending the children to school. Do not neglect their education," is the note stressed by nearly all the speakers in their broadcasts. Hesitant voices, unfamiliar to the "mike," gather strength with restrained excitement at the opportunity to talk across the 'horizon' as they imagine it. Announcements that they are in very good spirits follow.

Relatives of soldiers living in villages where there are no radio sets travel down to Delhi to listen to these broadcasts. Although the message is for one of them they sometimes come in groups of ten or twelve. They listen with rapt attention and go back greatly pleased.

Reverse broadcasts, that is, from families to troops, are also arranged from time to time. The relatives generally like to give long messages which mostly centre round domestic subjects such as extension of their farm, the purchase of a bull or the naming of a child.

"These messages from the troops are very popular," said an authority of New Delhi's All-India Radio. "We send an intimation to soldiers' relatives a week in advance of the broadcast, and some of them are so thrilled that they become quite upset for a whole week."

One woman fainted some minutes before she was to listen in to a message from her husband, and so missed it. When All-India Radio authorities heard of the incident they procured the broadcast record and sent it to her. She had the record played over and over again in a maternity hospital where she was confined.

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